

Art Unit: 2616

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas B. Harvestock #32,571 on 9/18/2007. The application has been amended as follows:

- Claims ~~4~~<sup>1</sup>-22 are canceled.
- Claims 1-10 and 23-24 are allowed.

*Handwritten:*  
XMB  
11-27-07

### Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record did not teach or suggest (claim 1) A communications back-channel, for coordinating routing decisions, the communications back channel wherein each of the plurality of routing intelligence units includes software programmed to control a distinct corresponding subset of the plurality of networking devices, generate and exchange routing performance information with the remaining plurality of routing intelligence units; a mesh coupling the one or more coordination processes are programmed to exchange routing performance information over the mesh; and a set of links separate from the mesh and coupling the plurality of routing intelligence units to the plurality of networking devices.